

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 ERDA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-07 NASA-01
TRSE-00 /094 W

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R 111801Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7271

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3637

1. AT MEETING OF RW(MDW)/CW BILATERALS WITH SOVIETS
TODAY, MAY 11, BUCHHEIM READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

BEGIN TEXT

MR. AMBASSADOR, I WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND BRIEFLY TO SOME
OF THE QUESTIONS YOU ASKED YESTERDAY CONCERNING VIEWS
EXPRESSED BY THE UNITED STATES SIDE DURING CCD DISCUSSIONS
IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR.

FIRST, CONCERNING FUEL-AIR EXPLOSIVES: OUR VIEWS HAVE
NOT CHANGED ON THIS SUBJECT. FUEL-AIR EXPLOSIVES ARE ONE
OF THE TYPES OF EXISTING BATTLEFIELD MUNITIONS WHICH ARE
PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION HERE IN GENEVA IN THE
COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS OF THE DIPLOMATIC
CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT.
THESE MUNITIONS DO NOT HAVE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF WEAPONS
OF MASS DESTRUCTION, AND THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESIGNATED
INTERNATIONALLY AS FALLING INTO THE CATEGORY OF CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONS. THEREFORE, WE SEE NO REASON TO CONSIDER THEM FURTHER
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR PRESENT DISCUSSIONS.

SECOND, WE DO NOT PERCEIVE A BASIS FOR CHARACTERIZING
INFRA-SOUND WAVES AND RADIO-FREQUENCY WAVES AS WEAPONS OF
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MASS DESTRUCTION. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SUCH WAVES, AT
SUFFICIENT LEVELS OF INTENSITY, CAN HARM HUMAN BEINGS AND
THEREFORE CERTAINLY CAN BE DANGEROUS IN THAT SENSE. THESE
PRACTICAL FACTS ARE CLEARLY RECOGNIZED, AND MANY NATIONS
HAVE ESTABLISHED LAWS OR REGULATIONS CONCERNING ACOUSTIC
AND ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELDS TO ASSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY
OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND OTHERS. IN THE US VIEW THIS

APPROACH TO THE HAZARDS OF ACOUSTIC AND ELECTRO-MAGNETIC
FIELDS SEEMS APPROPRIATE.

THIRD, OUR VIEWS HAVE NOT CHANGED CONCERNING HYPOTHETICAL
EXPLOSIVE DEVICES THAT MIGHT BE BASED ON TRANS-URANIUM OR
TRANS-PLUTONIUM FISSIONABLE MATERIALS.

FOURTH, WITH RESPECT TO AEROSPACE VEHICLES OF A TYPE
ILLUSTRATED BY THE US SPACE SHUTTLE, I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER
TO SAY AT TTHIS TIME.

FIFTH, CONCERNING THE POTENTIALITIES OF SOME KIND OF
ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE VIGILANCE WITH RESPECT TO ANY
EMERGING SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR A NEW TYPE OF WEAPON OF
MASS DESTRUCTION, WE HAVE NO PARTICILAR PROPOSALS TO
MAKE. THE RESULT THAT WE WOULD ENVISION IS THAT ANY
PARTY THAT DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE TO BRING A SPECIFIC NEW
POSSIBILITY TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CCD WOULD PROMPTLY
DO SO. END TEXT.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MDW, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA03637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770167-0594
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770571/aaaacjhz.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 10c6ba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2573247
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BUCHHEIM SPEECH AT MDW MEETING - MAY 11 77
TAGS: PFOR, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10c6ba96-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009